

***Gnophomyia viridipennis* (Gimmerthal) (Dip.: Limoniidae) in Kent – rare or simply under-recorded?**

For some years I have, with the assistance of Mr A. Stubbs, been collating data on the craneflies (Tipuloidea) of Kent and at the time of writing over 6000 records of 195 species have been ascertained. Until this year just two records of *Gnophomyia viridipennis* were known - 27.vi.1966 Pond Wood, Petts Wood TQ 4369 (VC 16), P. J. Chandler and 24.viii.1988 Ashenbank Wood TQ 6769 (VC16), A. Godfrey.

Falk (1991. *A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain, Part 1*. Research and Survey in nature conservation number 39. NCC), listed the species as Notable, that is, estimated to occur within the range of 16 to 100 modern 10km grid squares, although as only 15 post-1960 sites were known to him prior to the publication of this work it must have deserved at least Notable A status until the late 1980s. All that was said of its distribution was “Records scattered widely in England as far north as Durham, with a strong southerly bias” and “not infrequent around the outskirts of London”.

On 8.vi.2002, Mr Norman Heal presented me with a single male obtained by beating the lower branches of a Lombardy Poplar *Populus nigra* “Italica” as we were recording together at No Man’s Orchard, Chartham Hatch, VC 15, TR 108573) and a few minutes later I swept another male from the same line of trees. A month later, on 8.vii.2002, I observed a female in the sweep net of one of my students as we were conducting a ladybird survey in the grounds of St. Anselm’s Catholic School, Canterbury (VC15, TR 162561) and the following day yet another female was swept from the same locality. The school grounds are bordered by a range of trees and shrubs including, again, Lombardy Poplar.

Larvae of *Gnophomyia viridipennis* largely develop beneath the bark of trees with those of the Salicaceae seemingly being preferred and Falk (*op.cit.*) stated that they occur in recently fallen trees. How an insect can distinguish a recently fallen tree from a fallen branch or even from a standing specimen which has in some way been damaged is somewhat philosophical, but the poplars at both latter sites were all standing with those at No Man’s Orchard having been “topped”. There is, of course, no shortage of Lombardy Poplar in the Kent countryside and as the tree is often a productive source of Diptera in otherwise barren agricultural land it usually receives my attention. It is possible, or even probable, that the apparent difficulty in finding adults of *Gnophomyia viridipennis* is, again, simply due to the recorder not being in the right place and at the right time.— LAURENCE CLEMONS, 14 St. John’s Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NE.

Hazards of butterfly collecting.

Butterflies at boarding school in Denmark, 1958-1962

In 1958, at the age of 14, I was exported to boarding school in Denmark. School started in mid-August and I knew there was not much time to find my “butterfly feet” before the season closed down. But there were a number of quite varied localities within biking distance from Haslev, the town in south-central Zealand where my school was located.